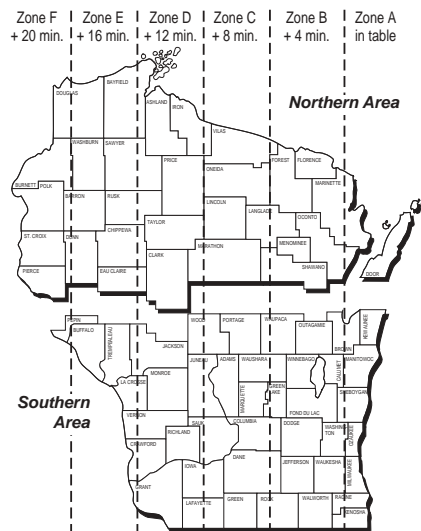


Hunting Hours

To determine the opening (A.M.) and closing (P.M.) times for all zones, add the minutes shown (see map) to the times listed in the table below.



DNR Field Stations

Office hours may vary by location. Contact center for information on office hours.

South Central Region (Fitchburg) 608/275-3266

Madison 608/266-2621
Dodgeville 608/935-3368
Horicon 920/387-7860
Janesville 608/743-4800
Poynette 608/635-8110

Southeast Region (Milwaukee) 414/263-8500

Plymouth 920/892-8756
Sturtevant 262/884-2300
Waukesha 262/574-2100

Northeast Region (Green Bay) 920/492-5800

Oshkosh 920/424-3050
Peshtigo 715/582-5000
Sturgeon Bay 920/746-2860
Wautoma 920/787-4686

West Central Region (Eau Claire) 715/839-3700

Baldwin 715/684-2914
Black River Falls 715/284-1400
La Crosse 608/785-9000
Wausau 715/359-4522
Wisconsin Rapids 715/421-7800

Northern Region

Antigo 715/627-4317
Ashland 715/685-2900
Cumberland 715/822-3590
Park Falls 715/762-3204
Hayward 715/634-2688
Ladysmith 715/532-3911
Rhineland 715/365-8900
Spooner 715/635-2101
Superior 715/392-7988
Woodruff 715/356-5211



The contents of this pamphlet were prepared by the Department of Natural Resources. A portion of the printing costs were paid for by the Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association.

Wisconsin Bear Hunters' Association
N8544 Jacobson Rd.
Trego, WI 54888

2005

Wisconsin

BEAR HUNTING Regulations



Season Dates

Zone C and the portion of Zone A where dogs *are not* permitted:

September 7 – October 11

Subzone A1, Zone B and the portion of Zone A where dogs *are* permitted:

September 7 – September 13

- with aid of dogs only

September 14 – October 4

- with aid of dogs
- with aid of bait
- with other methods

October 5 – October 11

- with aid of bait
- with other methods **not** utilizing dogs

Visit the DNR website at
dnr.wi.gov



Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

PUB-WM-197 2005

Dear Wisconsin Bear Hunter,

Your participation in cooperative bear management has been and will be critical in Wisconsin. In recent years, the bear population has been somewhat above our goal of 11,300. Through managed hunting, we have been able to move this figure downward towards goal. I do not expect that permit levels will vary all that much as we get to goal and maintain the population.

Bear population goals are set with the best management of the bear resource as the objective. Bears have a wide impact on many segments of society in Wisconsin from hunters, to agricultural producers, to all citizens through the benefits they provide as a popular viewing wildlife to the nuisance they can become to residents. Goals are set to meet these desires based on differential levels of tolerance in our four bear management zones. Bear hunting is the primary tool in place to achieve a successful bear program. As a hunter, you are critical to success.

Recent changes in bear hunting regulations have been popular with hunters. The area of Zone B where hunting with hounds had been prohibited was opened. Based on the popularity and success of this change, there is now a proposal to open the area of Zone A closed to hunting bear with hounds. In 2004, bear hunters who successfully drew a Class A bear license were allowed to transfer that license to a youth hunter under 17 years old. Hunters promoting the bear hunting tradition transferred over 120 Class A bear licenses in the first year alone.

The future of bear hunting in Wisconsin is bright and our cooperative management approach will help ensure that we take the proper direction. Thank you for your dedication to Wisconsin bears and bear management. Have a safe and successful season.

Sincerely,



Keith Warnke
Big Game Specialist

Cover Photo: Wisconsin's bear hunting tradition continues to grow. Angie Singer poses next to the 365-pound black bear she shot while in her eighth month of pregnancy, during the 2003 bear season.

Those hunters who have been drawn for a Class A bear license must purchase their license by August 1, 2005.

Licenses and Permits

To apply for a Class A bear license or bear preference point for the 2006 Season

- Applicants must pay a \$3.00 application fee, complete and submit the Class A Bear Hunting License/Preference Point Application by January 13, 2006.
- Applicants can apply for either a preference point (*Category 1- Class A License Refusal and Preference Acceptance*) or a license (*Category 2- Receive Class A License*). If you do not plan to purchase a license, choose Category 1. **If you choose Category 2 and are selected, you will lose all preference points even if you don't purchase the class A license.**

Class B License

(Residents: \$14, Non-residents: \$110)

Formerly called a "bear pursuit" license, a Class B license is required to *assist* a Class A bear harvest license holder in hunting activities, including baiting and dog training. To *assist* with the bear hunt means helping a Class A license holder hunt bear by handling dogs, locating bear, or engaging in other bear hunting activities that enable the Class A licensee to locate bear. You do not need to be with a Class A license holder to place bait. The Class B license is required of all members of a dog training group (12 years and older) if they are handling dogs, locating bear, or assisting the dog owners in locating bear, monitoring radios, trailing, placing bait, or tracking. Persons under the age of 12 can engage in any of these activities without purchasing a license.

Class A License

(Residents: \$45, Non-Residents: \$251)

Formerly called a "bear harvest permit," a Class A bear license allows the holder to shoot and tag a bear. It also includes all the privileges of a Class B bear license.

Bear Hunting Back Tag

A bear hunting Back Tag is issued to all Class A and Class B bear licensees. Back tags must be worn while hunting bear, training dogs, or assisting the holder of a Class A bear license. The back tag must be attached to the center of the back of the outermost garment where it can be clearly seen. Back tags do not have to be worn while baiting bears.

Permit Issuance

The number of bear permits available per management zone is based upon previous hunter success rates and current bear population estimates.

Hunters are selected using a cumulative preference system. Applicants receive a preference point every year they apply and are not drawn for a Class A permit. Applicants with the greatest number of preference points are chosen first to receive a class A permit. Hunters must apply at least once every three years to retain their preference points.

Bear Class A License Transfer

An adult may now transfer their Class A bear license to a youth ages 12–17, provided the youth successfully completes a hunter's education course prior to the bear hunting season and that the transfer takes place by **August 1**. The youth receiving the license will retain his or her accumulated preference points. A youth may only be the recipient of a transferred license once. If you wish to transfer your class A license, please contact your local DNR service center for more information. Bear license transfer applications can be found at all DNR service centers or on-line at dnr.wi.gov.

Bear Hunting Management Zones

- **Hunters who apply for and receive a Class A bear license for subzone A1 may hunt only in subzone A1. Hunters who receive a Class A bear license to hunt in zone A may hunt in subzone A1 or any part of zone A.**

Zone A has been split in an effort to shift hunting pressure from the more heavily hunted portions of zone A to subzone A1, an area which has traditionally received less pressure and has had greater numbers of bear damage and nuisance complaints. Because A1 is a subzone and falls within zone A, the State Administrative Code requires that hunters with zone A licenses be allowed to also hunt in subzone A1.

Questions?

For updated season & license information call the WI DNR Hunting License & Season Information Line.

1-800-282-0367

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in alternative formats (large print, Braille, audio tape, etc) upon request. Please call 608-266-8204 for more information.



Firearm and Archery Restrictions

It is illegal to:

- Hunt bear with a .22 or 5 mm rim-fire rifle, .17 caliber center-fire rifle, .410 shotgun, fully automatic firearm, or with ammunition loaded with full metal jacket, non-expanding type bullets.
- Use handguns that are not muzzle-loading handguns, unless they are loaded with centerfire cartridges of .22 caliber or larger. These handguns must have a minimum barrel length of 5 1/2 inches from the muzzle to the firing pin with the action closed.
- Use a muzzle-loading handgun unless it is at least .44 caliber with a minimum barrel length of 7 inches measured from muzzle to breech and fires a single projectile weighing not less than 138 grains.
- Use a muzzleloader, unless it is a smoothbore muzzleloading firearm of .45 caliber or larger, or a rifled muzzleloading firearm of .40 caliber or larger.
- Hunt bear with a bow having a pull of less than 30 pounds, or to use arrows which have metal broadhead blades less than seven-eighths of an inch wide.
- Possess while hunting, any crossbow (except disabled residents and nonresidents under Class A, B, C or crossbow permit or residents age 65 and older) or poisoned, drugged or explosive tipped arrow.
Note: Legal crossbows shall have a minimum draw of 100 pounds, a workable safety, and use at least 14-inch long bolts or arrows equipped with broadheads.
- Possess, place or transport, in or on any moving or stationary vehicle, any firearm, bow or crossbow, unless the firearm is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, and the bow or crossbow is unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case.

Other Restrictions

It is illegal to:

- Shoot or molest any bear in a den, hunt bear in any dump or sanitary landfill, or kill a cub or any adult bear accompanied by a cub or cubs. (Research has provided us with a general guideline for distinguishing adult bears from cubs. **Note: State Administrative code has defined an adult bear as a bear 42 inches or greater in length, as measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail.** Hunters concerned with distinguishing a cub from an adult bear should consider laying a 42 inch log next to their bait to assist in determining the size of a bear.) *If you're not sure, don't shoot!*
- Possess a bear carcass unless lawfully tagged.
- Sell, buy, trade or barter bear hides unless the claws, head and teeth are attached. Bear claws and teeth may not be sold, purchased, traded or bartered when separated from the hide. The sale of other bear parts is also prohibited.

Road Hunting

It is illegal to:

- Hunt within 50 feet of the roadway's center.
- Discharge a firearm, or shoot an arrow from a bow or a bolt from a crossbow from or across a highway or within 50 feet of the roadway's center. This prohibition applies to all public roads which are either paved or indicated on a current Department of Transportation county highway map. Unpaved fire lanes are exempt and shown as dotted lines on county maps.
Note: *Class A disabled permit holders are exempt from certain portions of this requirement when hunting from a stationary vehicle. Contact your local DNR office for more information.*

Tagging and Registration

- Immediately upon killing, and before field dressing or moving the bear, you must validate the carcass tag by slitting the marks indicated on the tag. Immediately following validation, the carcass tag shall be attached to the bear at any location on the bear.
- If quartered, the carcass tag should be attached to the hide and both hide and carcass should be displayed at registration.
- Each bear must be registered within the county or adjoining county in which the bear was killed **and** within the black bear management zone or subzone in which it was killed no later than 5:00 P.M. on the day after the kill. See Internet for a list of registration stations (dnr.wi.gov).
- The person who tags the bear must keep the carcass and registration tag with the butchered meat until it is consumed.

Transport

It is illegal to:

- Transport another person's unregistered bear unless accompanied by the person issued the carcass tag. Once registered, anyone may transport the animal.
Note: Residents and nonresidents may transport legally possessed bear out of state provided it is registered according to the procedures outlined under "Tagging and Registration."

**Support Ethical Responsible Hunting
Report Violations
Call 1-800-847-9367
1-800-TIP-WDNR**

**Toll Free • Statewide • 24-Hour • Confidential
(This is not an information number.)
Conservation wardens may enter private lands
while performing their duties.**

Baiting

1. Bait or feed may be placed and used for the purpose of hunting bear or training bear dogs **statewide**, except that **it is illegal for any person** to place, use, or hunt over bait or feed placed for bears:



- Beginning the day after the bear season closes and continuing through the following April 14th.
 - In excess of **10 gallons** of bait or feed at any feeding site.
 - That is **not** totally enclosed in a hollow log, a hole in the ground or stump which is capped with logs, rocks or other naturally occurring and unprocessed substances which **prevents deer from accessing the material**. Liquid scent used for hunting bear or training bear dogs does not need to be enclosed, but is part of the 10 gallon limit.
 - Unless, when the bait or feeding site is checked or re-baited, all bait that has been uncovered is again enclosed and made **inaccessible to deer**.
2. Additionally, **no person may** place, use or hunt over bait or feed that:
- Contains or is contained within metal, paper, plastic, glass, wood or other similar processed materials. This does not apply to bait or feed placed in hollow logs or stumps or to scent materials.
 - Contains any animal part or animal by-product.
 - Is located within 50 yards of any trail, road or campsite used by the public, or within 100 yards from a roadway having a posted limit of 45 miles per hour or more.
 - Is contained in or deposited by an automatic or elevated feeder that is designed to deposit bait or feed on the ground.
3. **No person may hunt over** bait or feed material for bear without possessing a valid unused class A bear license and carcass tag.
4. **No person may place** bait or feed material for bear hunting without possessing a valid class A or class B bear license.
5. **No person may** hunt or train dogs over bait or a feeding site that is in violation of these regulations, unless the area is completely free of bait or feed material at least 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, pursuing animals or dog training.
- Note:** You may hunt over material deposited by natural vegetation or found solely as a result of normal agricultural practices. *Removal of unlawfully placed bait or feed material does not preclude the issuance of a citation for the original placement of the unlawful baiting or feeding material.*

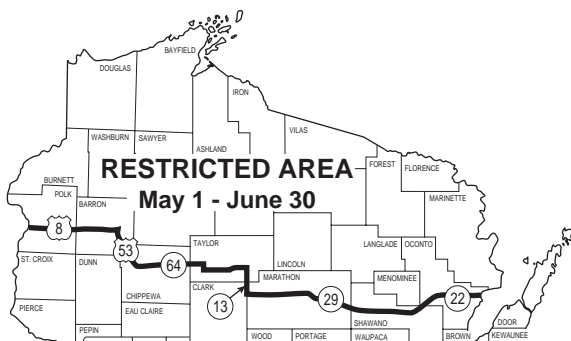
Dog Training and Use

It is illegal to:

- Hunt bear with dogs, except in subzone A1, Zone B and the non-shaded portion of zone A of the bear hunting management zones map during the season for dogs.
- Train dogs by pursuing bear **except** from **July 1 through August 31**. Bear dog training is not permitted during the bear hunting season.
- Train dogs on DNR lands, from April 15 through July 31, unless the dog is on a leash no longer than 8 feet, except on Class 1 field trial grounds or for bear dog training on DNR lands other than state parks after June 30.
- Hunt or train dogs unless one person in the group has on their person rabies tags or dog license tags for each dog.
- Hunt, train dogs, or pursue bear with a dog that is not tattooed, or that isn't wearing a collar with the owner's name and address attached.
- Allow the dogs to kill any wild animal.
- Hunt, train dogs, or pursue bear with more than 6 dogs in a single pack, regardless of the number of bear hunters or the dog's ownership.

Note: Dogs may be replaced that fall out of the chase, but no more than 6 dogs may be used to pursue bear regardless of the number of bear hunters and regardless of the dog ownership.

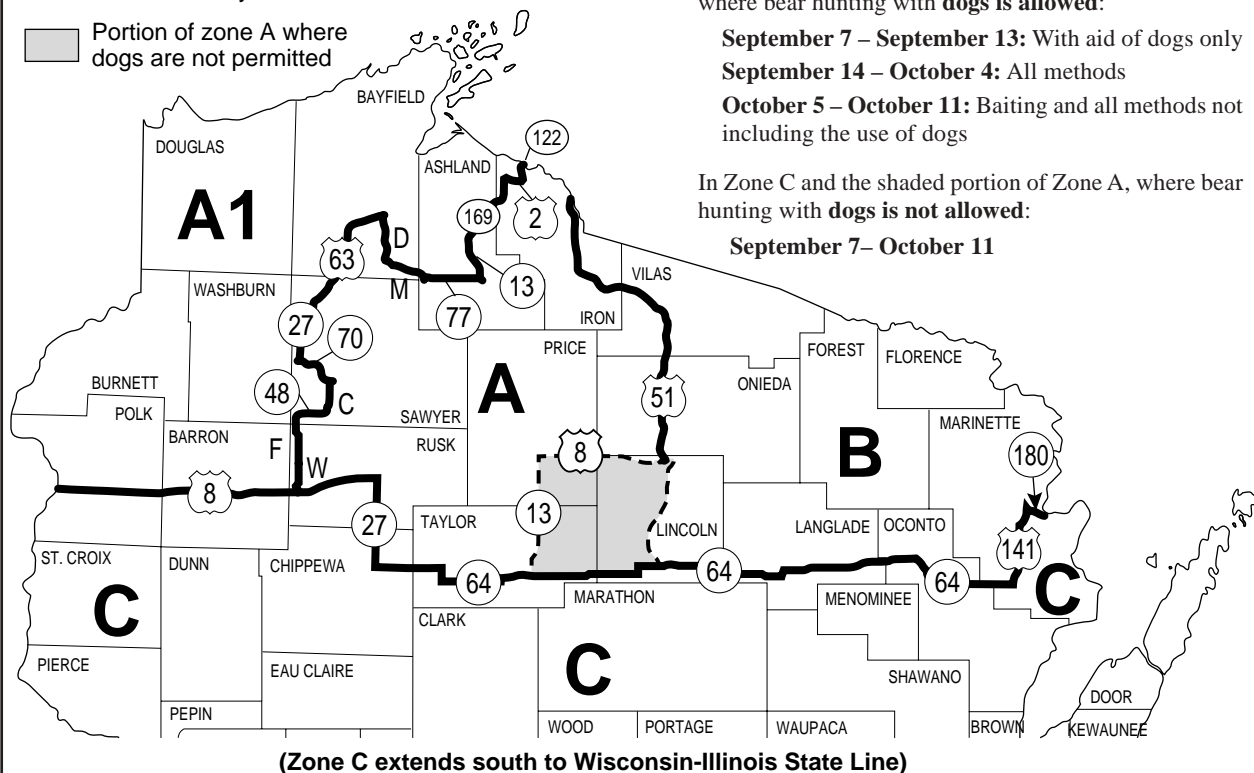
- Hunt or pursue any free-roaming wild animal with the aid of any dog, from May 1 to June 30, north of the highways shown on the map below, except for approved dog trials and training on free-roaming rabbits or raccoons under a hound dog trial or training license.



If not in possession of a Class A bear hunting license, a Class B license is required of all members of a dog training group (12 years and older) if they are handling dogs, locating bear, or assisting the dog owners in locating a bear, monitoring radios, trailing, or tracking. Persons under the age of 12 can engage in any of these activities without purchasing a license.

Bear Hunting Management Zones Map

- Black Bear management zone boundary
- Portion of zone A where dogs are not permitted



Bear Population and Harvest Trends: 1988—2004

